

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 223

Honoring the sesquicentennial of Wisconsin statehood.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 24, 1998

Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. OBEY, Mr. PETRI, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. KLUG, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. NEUMANN, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, and Mr. KIND) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Honoring the sesquicentennial of Wisconsin statehood.

Whereas the land that comprises the State of Wisconsin has been home to numerous Native American tribes for many years;

Whereas Jean Nicolet, who was the first known European to land in what was to become Wisconsin, arrived on the shores of Green Bay in 1634;

Whereas Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet discovered the Mississippi River, one of the principal waterways of North America, at Prairie du Chien on June 17, 1673;

Whereas Charles de Langlade founded at Green Bay the first permanent European settlement in Wisconsin in 1764;

Whereas, before becoming a State, Wisconsin existed under 3 flags, becoming part of the British colonial territory under the Treaty of Paris in 1763, part of the Province of Quebec under the Quebec Act of 1774, and a territory of the United States under the Second Treaty of Paris in 1783;

Whereas, on July 3, 1836, the Wisconsin Territory was created from part of the Northwest Territory with Henry Dodge as its first governor and Belmont as its first capital;

Whereas the city of Madison was chosen as the Wisconsin Territory's permanent capital in the fall of 1836 and construction of the Capitol Building began in 1837;

Whereas, pursuant to legislation signed by President James K. Polk, Wisconsin joined the United States as the 30th State on May 29, 1848;

Whereas members of Native American tribes have greatly contributed to the unique culture and identity of Wisconsin by lending words from their languages to the names of many places in the State and by sharing their customs and beliefs with others who chose to make Wisconsin their home;

Whereas the Wisconsin State motto of "Forward" was adopted in 1851;

Whereas Chester Hazen built Wisconsin's first cheese factory in the town of Ladoga in 1864, laying the groundwork for one of the State's biggest industries;

Whereas Wisconsin established itself as a leader in recognizing the contributions of African Americans by being the only State in the Union to openly defy the Fugitive Slave Law;

Whereas the first recognized Flag Day celebration in the United States took place at Stony Hill School in Waubeka, Wisconsin, on June 14, 1885;

Whereas Wisconsin has sent 859,489 of its sons and daughters to serve the United States in the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and Somalia;

Whereas 26,653 Wisconsinites lost their lives serving in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas Wisconsin allowed African Americans the right to vote as early as 1866 and adopted a public accommodation law as early as 1895;

Whereas on June 20, 1920, Wisconsin became the first State to adopt the 19th amendment, granting women the right to vote;

Whereas in 1921 Wisconsin adopted a law establishing equal rights for women;

Whereas Wisconsin celebrated the centennial of its statehood on May 29, 1948;

Whereas many Wisconsinites have served the people of Wisconsin and the people of the United States and have contributed to the common good in a variety of capacities, from inventor to architect, from furniture maker to cabinet member, from brewer to Nobel Prize winner;

Whereas the State of Wisconsin enjoys a diverse cultural, racial, and ethnic heritage that mirrors that of the United States;

Whereas May 29, 1998, marks the 150th anniversary of Wisconsin statehood; and

Whereas a stamp commemorating Wisconsin's sesquicentennial will be issued by the United States Postal Service on May 29, 1998: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) honors the proud history of Wisconsin state-
 4 hood; and

5 (2) encourages all Wisconsinites to reflect on
 6 the State's distinguished past and look forward to
 7 the State's promising future.

8 **SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTION.**

9 The Congress directs the Clerk of the House of Rep-
 10 resentatives to transmit a copy of this concurrent resolu-
 11 tion to each member of the Wisconsin congressional dele-
 12 gation, the Governor of Wisconsin, the National Archives,
 13 the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, and the mem-
 14 bers of the Wisconsin Sesquicentennial Commission.

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